

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Status

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 11-26 are pending. Claim 1 is currently amended and finds support in paragraphs [0027]-[0030] and [0032] of the specification (as filed). Claims 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 were previously canceled without prejudice and claims 7 and 8 are currently canceled without prejudice. Claims 3, 4 and 11-17 remain as previously presented. Claims 18-26 are added. Claims 18 and 19 find support in paragraph [0041] of the specification. Claims 20 and 21 find support in paragraph [0037] of the specification. Claims 22-26 find support in paragraph [0044] (i.e., Table 1) of the specification. No new matter is believed to have been entered.

§103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 11-17 are rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Okamoto (WO 02/36687) and Meyer (US 2004/0030090). Claims 7 and 8 are rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686 (US 4,786,686). As a portion of the amended subject matter of independent claim 1 includes the subject matter of previously presented claims 7 and 8, Applicants respectfully traverse the above-noted obviousness rejections with respect to the combination of Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686.

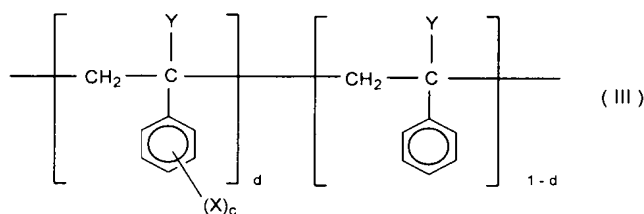
At the outset it is noted that independent claim 1 currently recites that the polycarbonate resin composition comprises at least one component (E) in addition to components (A), (B) and (F). The at least one component (E) is (i) an alkali/alkaline earth metal salt of a perfluoroalkane sulfonic acid represented by formula (II) (see claim 1) and/or (ii) an aromatic vinyl resin containing sulfonate groups (having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000-300,000) represented by formula (III) (see claim 1), and provides improved flame retardance to the polycarbonate resin composition (see e.g., [0027]).

In contrast to the claimed invention, **none** of Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686 disclose (i) an alkali/alkaline earth metal salt of a perfluoroalkane sulfonic acid *represented by formula (II)* (see Applicants' claim 1) and/or (ii) an aromatic vinyl resin containing sulfonate groups (having a

weight average molecular weight of 1,000-300,000) *represented by formula (III)* (see Applicants' claim 1). Accordingly, Applicants submit that no combination of these three references can render obvious that which they do not disclose. As such, Applicants submit that the combination of Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686 fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness over the claimed polycarbonate resin composition which comprises (i) a component (E) of formula (II) and/or (ii) a component (E) of formula (III). Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the obviousness rejections relying upon Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686.

Notwithstanding the above, even if a *prima facie* case of obviousness over the claimed invention did exist with respect to Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686, which it does not, Applicants submit that the cited combination of references fails to render obvious the claimed invention for at least the following reasons.

While Laughner '686 may generically disclose the inclusion of "metal salts of aromatic sulfonates, sulfates, sulfonamides, sulfimides, etc." (col. 4, lines 26-28) in carbonate polymer compositions, Applicants submit that Laughner '686 fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed component (E) of formula (II) (i.e., $(C_aF_{2a+1}SO_3)_bM$) and/or (ii) a component (E) of formula (III)



In addition, Applicants' specification provides evidence of the enhanced flame retardance (i.e., "V-0") of the claimed polycarbonate resin composition when a metal salt of formula (II) is used (i.e., Examples 1 and 7 of Table 1 (pg. 24) including "metal salt-1" which is potassium perfluoroalkane sulfonate) and a metal salt of formula (III) is used (i.e., Example 8 of Table 1 (pg. 24) including "metal salt-2" which is sodium polystyrene sulfonate). No combination of the cited references discloses or suggests that the inclusion of these specifically claimed metal salts of

formula (II) and/or (III) with components (A), (B) and (F) can produce a polycarbonate resin composition having such an *enhanced flame retardance* (i.e., "V-0") *while maintaining* desired/enhanced levels of spiral flow length (SFL), Izod impact strength, heat deformation temperature, flexural strength, flexural modulus *and* limiting oxygen index (LOI) (see Table 1 on pg. 24).

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that no combination of Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686 renders obvious the claimed polycarbonate resin composition comprising components (A), (B), (E) and (F), wherein (E) is a metal salt of a perfluoroalkane sulfonic acid represented by formula (II) and/or an aromatic vinyl resin containing sulfonate groups (having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000-300,000) represented by formula (III), and wherein said polycarbonate resin composition has improved flame retardance, spiral flow length (SFL), Izod impact strength, heat deformation temperature, flexural strength, flexural modulus *and* limiting oxygen index (LOI). As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejections relying upon Okamoto, Meyer and Laughner '686.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and passage of this case to issue.

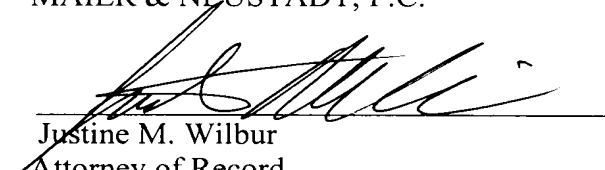
Respectfully submitted,

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